



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

10 June 2013

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1044, "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Prosecution of Individuals Possessing a Controlled Substance under Certain Circumstances."

The intent behind this law is noble – we want to encourage those overdosing on drugs to seek medical treatment. However, those using illegal drugs or inappropriately using prescription drugs do not check the law books in these cases. I am concerned this bill may create an unnecessary barrier for drug enforcement when drug use remains a significant scourge on our state.

Additionally, Maine prosecutors have the ability to exercise discretion on possession charges already. If they believe that a drug charge is unjust, it is within their purview to decline to prosecute. And, as recognized throughout our nation's history, the ultimate protection of the citizenry lies with the jury. Because of these protections inherent in our Constitutional system, this bill is not necessary and, with the drug problems rampant in our state, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return LD 1044 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER